

Report: Take Washington state employees off the chopping block



by Public News Service

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker may be facing off

against his state's workers over the budget crunch, but in Washington state, a new report says there's no need for that. It also reinforces President Obama's recent advice to governors to not blame state employees, or their unions, for the state budget shortfalls.

Analyzing multiple studies on wages and benefits, the Seattle-based Economic Opportunity Institute (EOI) has found that most state workers are underpaid compared to their privatesector counterparts, by an average of about 7 percent.

The EOI report backs what state employees have known for years - and telling the rest of the world in a series of solidarity rallies for Wisconsin.

"Did our wages cause this financial crisis? Hell no!" shouted WFSE/AFSCME Vice WFSE/AFSCME VP Sue Henricksen (with WFSE/AFSCME President Carol Dotlich [left] and Treasurer Rosemary Sterling [right]) at Feb. 26 solidarity rally. "Hell NO!" we didn't cause the recession, she

President Sue Henricksen at the "Save the American Dream" rally Feb. 26 attended by 2,000 supporters.

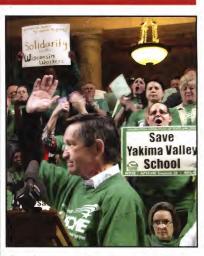
"We will never get rich, but we will sure as hell make more of a difference than the Scott Walkers of this world," she added

"Our labor unions didn't cause this budget crisis for us - they have sacrificed to help us solve it." Gov. Chris Gregoire, chair of the National Governors Association, told National Public Radio recently.

Marilyn Watkins, EOI policy director and report co-author, says almost half of public employees in Washington have college degrees, but that is not reflected in their paychecks.

"With a four-year bachelor's degree they earn about \$23,000 less on average, their total compensation package, than somebody with a comparable level of education and experience and type of position in the private

Watkins says the gap



A picture that tells it all

On Presidents' Day, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich keynoted WFSE/ AFSCME's rotunda rally in support of Wisconsin's public workers and fighting cuts, consolidations and closures here, like the proposed closure of Yakima Valley School. Details on job actions at the Capitol and around the state, see pages 4, 5 and 8.

is widest for the jobs that require the most education. Attorneys, for example, make about \$70,000 a year more in private practice than they can working for the state. According to the research, the only place public

employees do a little better in Washington is in those jobs that require no higher education.

Some are quick to take aim at the benefit packages that unions negotiate for their

See EOI, page 8

MEMBERS IN ACTION IN THE LEGISLATURE

BARGAINING UPDATES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT.
In ballot counting that
ended at about 4:15 p.m.,
Feb. 17, WFSE/AFSCME
General Government
members ratified the 20112013 tentative contract
agreement on a vote of
5.332 to 839. Another 29

ballots were voided.

The governor has asked the Legislature to fund the economic parts of the contract, but Senate Republicans have proposed voiding it to force even deeper pay cuts and even higher increases in health costs.

HIGHER EDUCATION.
At press time, all eight of WFSE/AFSCME's higher education bargaining teams were still in negotiations or in mediation over their 2011-2013 contracts. For updates, go to www.wfse, org > Bargaining.



Fish Hatchery
Local 2964, has testified a number of times this session on behalf of the union. On Feb. 8, he called on Idamwakers to preserve the "hydraulic project approval (HPA)" process by rejecting HB 1233 to abolish it, and charge users for the process that benefits natural resources (HB

project approval (HPA)" process by rejecting HB 1233 to abolish it, and charge users for the process that benefits natural resources (HB 1588) (The HPA process requires approval for any project that will use divert, obstruct or change the natural flow or hed of any salt or fresh waters in the state.) On Feb. 15. he testified in the House for HB 1796. the Discover Pass bill to raise \$71 million to replace funds the governor proposes cutting from Parks, Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife. Looking over his shoulder (above) was the bill's leading opponent, former House Democratic Leader

Lyn Kessler.



Another attempt to discount social workers came up for a hearing Feb. 8, but it was clear it had little support. SB 5513 ended up dying in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee.

Regina Patterson (left), a social worker in Kelso and a member of Local

1400, said the Child Protective Licensure bill would "intensively cripple the department's efforts toward the task of protecting children. It would eliminate qualified, trained and experienced workers from the field in an effort to replace them with inexperienced and poorty trained workers."

SB 5513 "would immediately exclude those with education in the areas of psychology, education, juvenile justice, or other related fields," she said. A different social worker title change bill, SSB 5020, did pass the Senate but it's been improved by amendments, but still is a bill of concern.

WFSE/AFSCME and its newest medical interpreter members (right) joined other supporters to boost Senate Bill 5807, the bill that would eliminate the multi-layered and costly system of brokers. It came up for a Feb. 24 hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It also allows use of technology for electronic scheduling and the like to speed up the appointment process while protecting the ability of patients to have in-person interpreters for procedures ranging from childbirth to surgery. Client health and safety could not be compromised. The union's Dennis Eagle called SB



5807 a "government efficiency bill that will save you money."
"Let's work together to improve this program and save the state money,"

said WFSE/AFSCME Interpreters United member Magde Rojas (second from left in photo).

SHARED LEAVE REQUESTS

If you've been approved to receive shared leave by your agency or institution, you can place a notice here. Once you've been approved by your agency or institution, WFSE/AFSCME can place your shared leave request here and online. Please include a contact in your agency, usually in human resources, for donors to call. E-mail the editor at tim@wfse.org. Or call 1-800-562-6002.

 The following could use a donation of eligible unused annual leave or sick leave or all or part of your personal holiday:

Shawnte Papac, a fiscal analyst 1 with DSHS in Olympia and a member of Local 443, is recovering from bronchitis and bronchospasms. She has been approved for shared leave. Contact: Sharon Sterling, (360) 902-8056.

Rebecca Jordan, a social worker 3 in Seattle and a member of Local 843, has been approved for shared leave for a medical matter. Contact: your human resource office.

Lisa Randlette, an environmental planner 4 with the Department of

State Employee

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Carol Dotlich, President

Greg Devereux, Executive Director

Editor Tim Welch e-mail: tim@wise.org • Internet: www.wise org Member, ILCA Natural Resources in Olympia and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave to care for her ailing father. Contact: your human resource office.

Lori Humphrey, a medical assistance specialist 3 with DSHS in Olympia and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave as she awaits a lung transplant. Contact: Lindsey Henderson, (360) 725-2134.

Wendy Rusk, a financial services specialist 3 with DSHS in Tacoma, is in need of shared leave because of serious medical conditions. Contact: your human resource office.

Peter Barabasz, a financial services specialist 3 with DSHS at the Sky Valley CSO in Snohomish County and a member of Local 948, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: vour human resource office.

Chris Saunders, a licensed practical nurse 4 at the Spokane Veterans' Home and a member of Local 1221, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: Sandie Wollan. (509) 344-5777.

Skip Jensen, a custodian 1 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg and a member of Local 330, is recovering from back surgery to the lower spine. He has been approved for shared leave. Contact: Stephen Sarchet, (509) 963-1286.

Sal Cantu, a Worksource specialist 5 in Lakewood and a member of Local 53, has been approved for shared leave to care for his daughter who underwent emergency surgery. She will have a long recovery. Contact: your human resource office.

Kathleen Hancock, a claims unit supervisor with the Department of Labor and Industries in Turnwater and a member of Local 443, will be off the job at least until March 4 because of multiple serious health conditions.

Contact: Candyce Peppard, (360) 902-

Joe Ruby, a construction and maintenance project specialist at Fort Worden and a member of Statewide Parks Local 1466, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: your human resource office.

Ida Green, a specimen processing technician at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle and a member of Local 1488, has been approved for shared leave to care for her son who is recovering from surgery and undergoing radiation treatments. Contact: Jewel Evans at (206) 598-6113

Isabel Estrada, a social worker 2 with DSHS in Renton and a member of Local 843, has exhausted all leave because of a serious health condition. She will need to be off the job five to six weeks. Contact: your human resource office.

Robert Masters, a support enforcement officer 2 with DSHS in Yakima and a member of Local 1326, has been approved for shared leave as he recovers from surgery. Contact: Patty Palmer, (509) 249-6014.

Regena Jones, a WorkSource specialist 6 with the Employment Security Department in Kelso and a member of Local 1400, has been approved for shared leave because of a personal illness. Contact: Sharon Lindley, (360) 725-9440 or slindley@sed.wa.gov.

Shannon Head and her husband Joel have both been approved for shared leave. Joel Head is a cost reimbursement analyst with DSHS in Olympia and a member of Local 443; he has been diagnosed with leukemia. Shannon Head is a workers compensation adjudicator 3 with the Department of Labor and Industries in Turnwater, and also a member of Local 443. Joel needs shared leave to

undergo treatment and for recovery. Shannon needs shared leave to care for Joel. If you can help Joel and Shannon with a donation of eligible unused annual leave or sick leave or all or part of your personal holiday, contact Candyce Peppard at L&I at (360) 902-5705, or for DSHS, your human resource office.

Dennis Arndt, a psychiatric security attendant at Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake and a member of Local 782, is having brain surgery. Contact: Laura Fairley, (509) 565-4580, or e-mail Cindee Thomas at thomasci@dshs.wa.gov.

Dana Phillips, a financial services specialist 3 with DSHS in Yakima and a member of Local 1326, is caring for her husband who is recovering from surgery. Contact: your human resource office.

Rosanne Lee, an administrative assistant 3 with the Department of General Administration in Olympia and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave because of medical issues. Contact: Liz Maguire, (360) 902-

IN MEMORIAM: Donna Richards, a maintenance technician 2 with the Department of Transportation in Spokane and a member of Local 504, died Dec. 26 after a year-long battle with cancer. She was 49. She had worked for DOT for 23 years and was Local 504's recording secretary.

IN MEMORIAM: Bill Owen Elliott, a nighttime custodian for the Department of General Administration in Olympia and a member of Local 443 since 1994, died March 2 after he collapsed on his way home. He was 57. He is survived by his with Anne, two daughters and a son. A memorial service was held March 11 in Olympia.

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'REAL SOLUTIONS! PUT PEOPLE FIRST!'

WEEK OF ACTION, from page 1

scuttle WFSE/AFSCME's just-ratified General Government contract and the eight higher education contracts that are ctill in perceptations

are still in negotiations.
Senate 5870 says the 3 percent pay
cut and 25 percent increases for health
costs aren't a big enough sacrifice.
The bill says the General Government
agreement and, prospectively, the
eight higher ed agreements are not
financially feasible. The bill would
order the union back to the table to
negotiate: higher health costs, doing
away with step increases, reductions in
health coverage, permanent pay cuts
and an end to sick leave cashout.

d an end to sick leave cashout. — Sen. Ed Murray, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, says he opposes the bill and it likely won't get heard in committee.

But Zarelli said senators may change their tune after the March 17 revenue forecast.

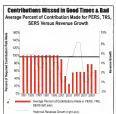
So Zarelli's Wisconsin-style attack on you should be taken seriously. And you should get ready to mobilize for the Week of Action, the week of April

(That week was chosen because April 4 is the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, who died fighting for striking

AFSCME workers in Memphis.)
Watch for details everywhere,
including online at www.wfse.org.

A Tale of Two Olympias

Have-Nots



In 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, the Legislature had plenty of revenue growth, but pension contributions were 30%-53% of amounts needed.

Haves

Since 2000, the Legislature has passed 154 tax breaks, 27% of the total tax preferences in the state, granting more than \$3 billion in tax exemptions in just the past 11 years.

TAX EXEMPTIONS BY YEAR OF ENACTMENT
(state/focal tax savings for 2007-2009 beansure)

Year adopted	Number	Current savings
2000	7	\$1,402,2
2001	21	180.6
2002	5	144.3
2003	35	283.2
2004	20	32.4
2005	26	690.5
2006	23	111.8
2007	17	161.3
TOTAL:	154	>\$3 BILLION
	9/	SURCE Department of Reverse



What are some real solutions?

The Zarelli bill is just an example of a legislative smokescreen to divert attention from real solutions-to the budget problem. One of the major solutions – closing tax loopholes:

 The \$3 billion in tax giveaways over the past 10 years are a big part of the deficit. Your pension benefits shouldn't suffer (see chart at right).

Other unfair tax giveaways every year include: the \$100 million to Wall Street for first home mortgages – there are no longer any in-state banks benefitting from this; \$8 million for elective cosmetic surgery; \$45 million for private jets; \$11 million for out-of-state coal; \$44 million for out-of-state shoppers; \$40 million for fertilizer; \$100 million for consumer services, like hair removal, massages, sporting events, investment advice and movie theaters; \$2 million for film and video equipment; \$2 million for tradeshows; and the sales tax exemption for Vlagra. For more, go to http://oureconomicluture.org/

WFSE/AFSCME'S FIGHT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN LEGISLATURE



Fish and Wildlife enforcement, other natural resource duties would suffer in merger, members tell senators

Mark James, president of Statewide Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers Local 881, joins Statewide Parks Local 1466 President Brian Yearout (center) and Local 443 Fish and Wildlife IT member Tim Young (right) to oppose SB 5669 to merge several natural resource agencies at a Feb. 10 hearing in the Senate Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee.

James said merger would spread enforcement too thin.
"We need to be able to focus on things that we don't have
the people to do," he said. "And I'm just asking that you don't
dilute our mission and let us enforce the state laws that we're
here to do (and) protect our fish and wildlife."

Young said a WFSE/AFSCME survey showed members in the affected agencies 'don't support the merger and feel there are other issues to deal with beforehand." When surveyed, those members said the agencies should reduce management levels, streamline business practices and reconcile or revise conflicting laws, Young said.

Yearout, president of Statewide Parks Local 1466, said the merger "will not replace the state general funds the governor proposes cutting to make parks self-funded and self-sustaining."

In wake of shooting, Community Corrections officers see progress on safety

In the wake of the near tragic shooting incident involving two brave Longview Local 1400 Community Corrections officers, the House has passed two major bills to improve CCOs' safety.

HB 2011 would extend binding arbitration on safety issues.

ESHB 1041 would allow Community Corrections officers who have completed government-sponsored enforcement firearms training to carry a concealed weapon off-duty, with some



Dave Thompson, DOC, Local 443, with WFSE/ AFSCME Lobbyist Matt Zuvich after Feb. 9 hearing

restrictions.

Both must now pass the Senate by April 12.

"ESHB 1041 will protect our Community Corrections officers when they're offduty," said WFSE/AFSCME Lobbyist Matt Zuvich.

The officers shot at in Longview Feb. 10 were onduty and armed. They were not injured.

But the offender, who was wanted on a warrant, shot at the officers after recognizing one as a Community

See CCOs, page 7



From left): Josef Bailey (WWU Local 1381), Lana Brewster (TESC Local 443) and Quincy Burns (EWU Local 931) testify in Senate Feb. 14.

The WFSE/AFSCME-initiated binding arbitration bills for campus police (HB 1736 and SB 5606) got good hearings, but did not clear committee. They can come back in 2012. "This is not a money issue for us," said Quincy Burns, a detective with the Eastern Washington University police department in Cheney and a member of Local 931. "This is about bringing a sense of reasonableness to the table for negotiations."



Bailey, Burns and Ray Wittmier (UWPM Local 1488) testify in House Feb. 8



From left: Statewide Parks Local 1466 members Jose Velazquez, Don Hall and Brian Yearout testify Feb. 15 for HB 1321 to give state park rangers general law enforcement authority. But other law enforcement groups opposed it. It failed to clear the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee.



Michael Weisman (Health, Local 443) and Ton Johnson (DOC, Local 308) endorse legislation limiting liability for workers in the departments of Corrections and Social and Health Services at a Senate hearing Feb. 10. SSB 5605 passed the Senate March 7.









WFSE/AFSCME's Presidents' Day rally brought national attention — and two-time presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich of Ohio (top) — as 2,000 rocked the Capitol dome in solidarity with Wisconsin public employees. Several lawmakers, including state Sen. Steve Conway (center) vowed the same courage shown by the "Wisconsin 14" senators who filed their state rather than be pawns in Gov. Scott Walker's all-out war on collective barqaining.

'You are the last line of defense in a democracy'



Wisconsin state employee Laurie Onasch joined the rally and was moved by the show of solidarity.



A State Patrol estimated crowd of 2,000 WFSE/ AFSCME members and members of other unions jammed the rotunda of the state Capitol in Olympia on Presidents' Day Feb. 21 to show solidarity with Wisconsin's public workers' fight against attempts to strip them of collective bargaining and union rights.

And they got a spirited

tip of the hat from Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, two-time candidate for president.

The Olympia rotunda rally sends a message "that at this moment when workers all around America are asking if there is going to be anybody who is going to stand in solidarity with them, that you are the vanguard of solidarity....You are part

of a wave that is growing, a powerful, human wave," said Kucinich, who was in Olympia for several-speaking engagements.

"You don't have to beg to the government because you are the government," Kucinich added.

"This is a watershed moment in our history, the labor movement and in this country," Washington State Labor Council President Jeff Johnson said.

Cheers went up as WFSE/AFSCME President Carol Dotlich announced that two-thirds of WFSE/AFSCME members voted to offer sanctuary to the "Wisconsin 14," the Wisconsin Senate-Democrats who fled the state to thwart Gov. Scott Walker's

See 2/21/11, page 7



Rep. Chris Reykdal



WSLC President Jeff Johnson



WSLC Sec.-Treas. Lynne Dodson



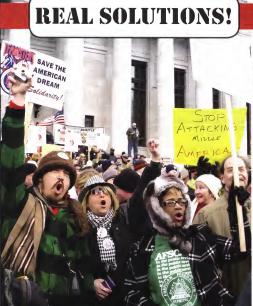
Rep. Sam Hunt (right, with Kucinich)



Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles



Sen. Lisa Brown, Senate majority leader





WFSE/AFSCME members (from left) Brett Clubbe (Local 53, WSU-Puyallup), Angle Hansen-Moore (Local 793, Western State Hospital) and Paulette Thompson (Local 53, DOC) joined with other unions in 8-degree weather for the Feb. 26 'Save the American Dream' march from Federation Headquarters in Olympia to the Capitol. They gathered to counter supporters of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. The unions turned out 2,000, while the rally funded by Walker's billionatic alles attracted only 500.

Why Wisconsin matters here

Wisconsin matters to us here. "
In Wisconsin, the governor has blamed state employees for the budget deficit. Gov. Scott Walker says the only solution is to repeal most of their collective bargaining rights.

In short, Walker wants to muzzle his public servants' voice at work.

Fourteen Wisconsin Democratic senators fled the state rather than giving the Senate there a quorum to fast-track passage of the anti-public servant legislation

servant legislation.
Some 2,000 miles away, 2,000
WFSE/AFSCME members rocked
Olympia's Capitol rotunda on
Presidents' Day, Just five days later,
another 2,000 marched in snowy,
8-degree weather from Federation
Headquarters to counter a smaller
rally funded by billionaire allies of
Walker.

Similar attacks on public servants have started in Ohio, Iowa, Idaho, New Jersey and Tennessee.

But why should we care? Because it could happen here – and in some ways it already is:

- The bill to scuttle our new contracts (see story, page 3).
- Wisconsin-style rollback bills proposed by Senate Republicans all died in the Senate Labor, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee without a hearing: SB 5349 (repeal collective bargaining), SB 5347 (repeal employees' union rights) and SB 5345 (contracting out rights). But they can all be resurrected in January 2012 when the second half of this Legislature convenes.
- SHB 1841 to consolidate information technology services, originally



From cheese heads to patriotism, WFSE/ AFSCME-led Feb. 26 march and rally in Olympia showed strong solidarity with Wisconsin's

included a provision stripping IT workers of bargaining and civil service rights. But Rep. John McCoy of the 38" Dist. pushed through a committee amendment retaining collective bargaining and civil service rights.

• The anti-state employee plague that is sweeping through state houses in the Midwest flared in a Senate committee over Sen. Joe Zarelli's SB 5773 to impose a high-deductible health savings account option for state

See WISCONSIN MATTERS, page 7





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WFSE/AFSCME M

Schut Scholarships information

Three \$1,000 Norm Schut Scholarships are available. They allow eligible members or members of their families to pursue studies at an accredited vocational school, college or university. One of the awards is earmarked specifically for an active member; the other two are open for

members, their spouses and their children. The scholarship is named after Norm Schut, WFSE/AFSCME's first executive director, who served from 1952 to 1974.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- · The applicant must be a graduating senior, or a high school graduate (GEDT accepted) from an accredited public, private or parochial high school.
- · Applicant must be a member of WFSE/AFSCME or an immediate family member, or a non-association member covered by the provisions of RCW 41.06.150, or an immediate family member who has been a member of the union at least six months prior to application.
- · Rules governing recipient award and use of funds: (1) Recipient must agree to enroll in an accredited vocational school, college or university of his or her choice during the academic year following the award; (2) The \$1,000 award will be held in a sinking fund in a WFSE account and drawn on by the student for registration fees, books and incidental, direct costs to education. Any balance at the end of the first academic year following the award will be available to recipient on entering school the second year, conditional upon maintenance of satisfactory standing
- · Applicant must have a satisfactory scholastic standing and be in need of financial assistance. There are no gender or age restrictions.

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npia, WA 98501. Or FAX to (360) 352-7608.

- The WFSE/AFSCME Women's/ Equal Partners Committee will evaluate the applications and determine the recipient of the award. The committee's decision will be final.
 - · April 30 is the application deadline

Application-Statement of Required Facts NORM SCHUT SCHOLARSHIPS 2011

Offered by the WFSE/AFSCME Women's/Equal Partners Committee

. Address:		
(Street)	(City)	(Zip)
Date of Birth:	4. School choice:	
our application will not be conside	OF HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL SCH red unless your transcripts are submit arship or other financial award?	tted.
. Are you working now?	Hours per week:	
Do you plan to work part-time?		
	ng your earnings or other financial assets d. (Attach any additional data.)	
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Younglove & Coker Scholarship information

One \$2,500 Younglove & Coker Scholarship is available. This scholarship allows eligible members or members of their families to pursue studies at an accredited vocational school, college or university.

The scholarship is funded by a generous grant from the law firm of Younglove & Coker, WFSE/AFSCME's attorneys. DETAILS:

- · Applicant must be a member of WFSE/AFSCME (membership beginning at least one year prior to application) or an immediate family member (including domestic partners) of WFSE/AFSCME (membership beginning at least one year prior to application).
- The applicant must be a graduating senior, or a high school graduate (GED accepted) from an accredited public, private or parochial high school. Applicant must have a satisfactory scholastic standing.
- Applicant must be in need of finan. cial assistance.
- · An official transcript of high school or vocational school or college must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee
- Rules governing recipient award and use of funds: (1) Recipient must agree to enroll in an accredited vocational school, college or university of his or her choice during the academic year following the award; (2) The \$1,500 award will be held in a sinking fund in a WFSE account and drawn on by the student for registration fees, books and incidental, direct costs to education. Any balance at the end of the first academic year following the award will be available to recipient on entering school the second year, conditional upon maintenance of satisfactory standing.
- The WFSE/AFSCME Women's/ Equal Partners Committee will evaluate the applications and determine the recipient of the award. The committee's decision will be final. Deadline: April 30.

Application-Statement of Required Facts

YOUNGLOVE & COKER SCHOLARSHIP 2011

2. Address:				
(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)	
3. Date of Birth:	4. School choice:			. 12
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7. Are you working now?	Hours per week:			
3. Do you plan to work part-time?	?			
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SHOP STEWARD CORNER

'Shop Steward of Year' nominations due May 6

for Shop Steward of the Year Award.

Nominee's address:

Work phone: ()_

Current job class:

Union offices held:

Local union number: _

How long a Shop Steward:_

SHOP STEWARD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Washington Federation of State Employees/ AFSCME Council 28 · AFL/CIO

ELIGIBILITY

Locals and individual members may nominate shop stewards who have demonstrated outstanding skills to help their members and to build up the union at the grassroots level.

NOMINATION:

Submit written nomination (you may use the printed nomination form at right) with the information listed on the nomination form printed at right.

Send completed nomination forms to: WFSE/ AFSCME Award Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

Nominations must be received by May 6, 2011. All written nominations must include a statement of the required facts as listed on the nomination form at Tight.

REVIEW:

A committee, appointed by the WFSE/AFSCME president and approved by the Executive Board, will review the nominations and select the recipients. In those instances where the nomination is from other than a local, local officers may be asked to provide additional information. The committee may select multiple recipients.

If this form is not completed in its entirety, the nomination may not be considered.

AWARDS:

The awards will be presented to the recipients at WFSE/AFSCME's Shop Steward Conference May 21-22 in Seatac.

CCOs, from page 3

Corrections officer.

"The assailant shot at their identity, which stays with the officers after 5 o'clock," Zuvich said. One of the officers, Tracy Peters, sent an e-mail Feb. 28 extending "our sincere thanks to all of those folks who offered their concern and support. It was deeply

appreciated."
Passage of HB 2011 came

after an earlier, broader binding arbitration bill died in committee. In a hearing Feb. 9

before the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee, Community Corrections Local 443 member

granting binding arbitration brings parity to state Corrections employees. Other law enforcement professionals

If this form is not completed in its entirety, the nomination may not be considered.

Signature:

Send completed nomination forms to: WFSE/AFSCME Award Committee,

1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

Nominations must be received by May 6, 2011.

have those rights, he said.

"When the existing processes fail us, our issues

Dave Thompson said

WFSE/AFSCME Shop Steward of the Year Award 2011

STATEMENT OF FACTS

. nominate

Home phone: (

Description of why nominee should be considered for the award, such as keeping the members

informed about the union; organizing and recruiting activities; representing members; enforcing

the contract; member spokesperson to management (speaking up for members); defending work-

ers' rights; developing and encouraging membership participation; etc. (attach additional sheets if

_How long a member:

fall on deaf ears," Thompson said. "We must have the ability to seek resolution."

"Arbitration takes the politics out of labor disputes," said WFSE/AFSCME Lobbyist Matt Zuvich.

WISCONSIN MATTERS, from page 5

employees

More than 70 percent of state workers in Indiana choose such a plan, why not here? Zarelli asked WFSE/ AFSCME Executive Director Greg Devereux during Feb. 22 testimony in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

"The reason folks in Indiana have gone from 44 percent to 70 percent participation is the State of Indiana is not offering other insurance." Devereux said. "They're trying to move everyone into health savings accounts in the State of Indiana."

What is needed is cost containment, not health savings accounts, Devereux

• And the state Senate on March 5 passed the bad workers' comp bill (ESB 5566) on a vote of 34-15. It was the first concrete sign that the kinds of attacks on workers we're seeing in Wisconsin can happen here.

nappen nere.

It's an attack on injured workers and on WFSE/
AFSCME Labor and Industries members and the quality workers' comp services they provide.

ESB 5566 is nothing more than a benefit cut for injured workers. Supporters count on the fact that workers will "compromise" their claims and "release" employers of all liability for less than their claims are worth. Savings come at the expense of families who have lost their source of income due to workplace injury.

And that's why it's so important to never let our guard down and mobilize during the Week of Action, April 5-8.

2/21/11, from page 4

plan to steamroll over public workers.

"And if Scott Walker succeeds in ending worker rights in Wisconsin, the birthplace of public servants' liberty, it could happen here," Dotlich said.

The crowd filled four levels of the Capitol with a sea of AFSCME Green behind the speakers' rostrum.

They rocked the dome with chants of "Put People First!" and "Union busting is disgusting!"

Dotlich noted we have a governor "who is not afraid of collective bargaining" and was able to negotiate \$330 million in savings.

"But if Scott Walker gets his way, other governors may be deluded into thinking that collective bargaining is a threat and they may advocate tyranny over talking," she said.

"The reality is, those in power from Wisconsin to Washington want to blame you, the working people, for the budget mess," Dotlich added

"Corporations are doing everything they can to break unions," Kucinich said.
"Corporations are doing everything they can to knock down wages. Corporations are doing everything they can to strip benefits, to get rid of retirement security. But

you are the answer....You are the last line of defense in a democracy....

"Workers have a right to organize. A right to collective bargaining. A right to decent wages and benefits, a right to retirement, a right to safety in the workplace. ... You have a right to a job and you have a right to participate in the political process. And it is your participation that is going to change this political process all across America."

Several legislators spoke up for public servants. "I can absolutely assure

"I can absolutely assure you that if there is any thought in this legislative body to attack these collective bargaining rights I will be there as well as many (others)," said Sen. Steve Conway of the 29th District.

"Public service is what made us great," said Rep. Chris Reykdal of the 22nd District. "We are not great despite it, we are great because of it."

"We have a budget crisis," said Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown of the 3rd District. "We have an economic crisis. It's serious. And it's not going away quickly. And we're going to have to make some really tough decisions. But let's not (balance them) on the rights of public workers to collectively bargain."

The rally ended with the crowd singing a special version of the Wisconsin state song, "On Wisconsin."

Here are the special lyrics:

On Wisconsin! Fight for freedom! Washington stands with you. We are proud state public servants, AFSCME Green and true!

Go, Wisconsin! Fight Scott Walker! We should make him flee!

We should make him flee! 'Cuz we're united coast to coast, Sol-i-dar-i-ty!

For YouTube videos, go to wfse.org

MEMBERS IN ACTION



Maple Lane School members listen intently as Local 1926 members make their case to governor's top aides.



Local 1926 member Patty Erhardt (with Alexander to her left) urges Brown and Justin to halt the fast-track closure of the juvenile facility in south Thurston County.



House Republican Leader Richard DeBolt (right) stood with Maple Lane supporters



Maple Lane fights

About a hundred Maple Lane School Local 1926 members descended on the governor's office March 3 in the ongoing fight to put the brakes on fast-track

They were joined by two powerful allies – 20th District Rep. Gary Alexander, ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, and his seatmate, Rep. Richard DeBolt, House Republican leader.

"It is not in the best interests of state government to close down Maple Lane School," Alexander told the group.

They met with the governor's budget director Marty Brown and top aide Jim

"Five years from now, when you have to re-open an institution, how much is it going to cost the state?" Local 1926 member **Michele Davis** asked Brown and Justin. "How much money are you out in lawsuits because kids have killed themselves, they've been seriously assaulted, sexual assaults going on?

"If we eliminate this, we are creating recidivism and we can't afford that," DeBolt said.

Frances Haddon Morgan Center members rally

Sen. Derek Kilmer of the 26th District (in scarf) joined Local 1181 members and supporters on the picket line Feb. 12 in Bremerton to save Frances Haddon Morgan Center from closure. It's a fight tied to the biennial budget coming out this



Parks members lobby against closures

Members of Statewide Parks Local 1466 descended on the Capitol Feb. 17 to save parks by urging support for legislation to replace some \$60 million in funds the governor wants to cut. They also opposed the merger of natural resource agencies

Hundreds march to support UW stewards



Members of Local 1488 and their student body allies twice marched on management March 2 to protest the University of Washington's attempts to tell members which stewards could represent them.

"We don't tell you who your management representatives are, so we don't feel like you need to be telling the union who their stewards are," Local 1488 Steward Paula Lukaszek told UW Vice President for Human Resources Mindy Kornberg. The members

presented hundreds of signed petitions to Kornberg and Peter Denis, labor relations director.

Both sides met moments later in a regular joint labormanagement meeting.





EOI, from page 1

members. But Watkins says to get the whole picture, the research compared both benefits and wages.

"The way that averages out, the total compensation

package is still, overall, lower in the public sector," Watkins says. "But a lot of the criticism has been aimed exclusively at the benefits side of it, without taking the wage side as part of the equation.

The EOI report concludes that if state workers' job

losses, wage freezes and mandatory furloughs continue, it will slow Washington's economic recovery. It is online at www.

eoionline.org. Washington State Employee staff contributed to this report.

The mystery worksite in the February Washington State Employee was the entrance to the grounds of Maple Lane School in south Thurston County where juvenile rehabilitation members of Local 1926 work. The first 10 readers with a correct answer were: Carol Bouchard, Courtney Eisenwald, Peter Lefeau, Jeremy Ludwig, Tara Miller, John Savers, Bret Shackelford, William Taylor, Toby Vaughn and Jo Wiest. 'Where's this worksite' returns next month.